

# Civic Committee Meeting Minutes

## Monday, April 20, 2009

Present: Sue Rothrock, Greg Morrison, Rodney Jester, Ann Schmittinger, Elaine Hickey  
(Secretary, Village of Arden)

The meeting was called to order by Convener, Sue Rothrock at 7:40 PM.

First order of business was to elect the Committee Chair for 2009/2010. Rodney nominated Sue. All agreed.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Three existing encroachment variances:***

2216 Hillside – The fence along Miller was removed. Another section of fence is still there and the Trustees are OK with that.

2319 Walnut – A 4 inch wide fence extends 7 inches beyond the property line.

2301 Hillside – A new survey was done and a new fence erected. The survey was incorrectly done the first time when surveyors used the wrong post as reference. The survey was redone and corrected but shows that the new fence still encroaches on 2103 Millers Road property. The Trustees are OK with it. Annie asked who the surveyors were. They were AES Surveyors.

Rodney pointed out the importance of surveyors finding the original pins, which is not always easy.

Greg asked about the new process for granting encroachment variances. Sue explained that the Civic Committee and the Village of Arden send a letter to the residents, granting them a temporary variance permit with the understanding that corrections may need to be made before or at the time of the next lease transfer.

### **New Business**

There was some discussion regarding Instant Ticketing. Annie had a question about a recent article in the *News Journal*. The Town of Arden had been issued an Instant Ticket because of a shopping cart found on Marsh Road.

#### ***Signage***

The Handicap Parking sign in front of the Buzz Ware has been ripped off and broken. Sue gave Larry a new sign to replace it a month ago. Since that job has not been done, Bev Fleming said she will get the BWVC maintenance man to do it.

Rodney mentioned that a new sign is needed for the Sherwood Green that says "Permit Parking Only." The sign saying No Parking on Sunset has been knocked over. It was suggested that we get two new signs that could be removed when need be.

Sue has taken an inventory of all signs stored in the Spring House. Signs that we currently need are: Orleans, Miller, Bulletin Board on the Village Green, Bulletin Board on Sherwood Green, Buzz Ware Village Center, and two for Sunset Road. Also, we could use a sign on Sherwood Road for direction to 2116 Sherwood which is set back very far and not easily seen. Many signs need refurbishing. Village Sign Crafters has done our signage in the past. They have suggested using glass beads in the signs for reflection purposes instead of reflective paint. We also need signs with arrows where roads split. For a total of 21 custom made signs Sue said

Village Sign Crafters will charge \$585.00 with \$35.00 in shipping. If we want the reflective glass beads, it would be an additional \$157.00. The total price would then be \$777.00. Purchasing new signs for that amount was approved by the Committee. Sue will also find out if the company can refurbish our old signs.

### ***Electronics Recycling Day***

We were unable to hold Electronics Recycling Day in April. The next available date is Saturday, May 16. Sue will ask Larry if he will put his truck at the Buzz Ware on that date. She will provide a tarp in case of rain. Denise at DSWA will not charge us and will help us unload.

### ***Large Item Trash Pick up***

Greg asked when there is a special pick up day for large trash items. Sue explained that there is no longer a separate pick up date for large items. Large items can now be placed out on regular trash day. Sue will put an article in *The Page* telling people what large items cannot go into trash pick up.

### ***Rain Barrels***

Stored in the Spring House, we have about 20 food-safe barrels which people can use to collect rain for watering their gardens. We could sell them for \$10 each. G3 has also bought rain barrels.

### ***Roads Walk***

Maps for doing the annual Arden Civic Committee Roads Walk were distributed. Each Committee member will walk their designated section of roads and report back to Sue by Saturday any needs for road repair and any dead or low hanging trees.

### ***Trees***

Steven gave Sue the paper work for applying for a Tree Grant from the State of Delaware. It is a matching grant and will go up to \$5000.00. The grant money can be used for maintenance purposes only, however when we spend our own money it does not have to be restricted to maintenance. Our own money can be used for removal and replacement. We spent over \$5000.00 last year. We would like to plant some new trees this year. Right now Lowes has a good selection and prices. Rodney also mentioned that he has a friend who could give us a good deal on trees.

The trees at the Field Theater are dying. They currently have the lights for the Theater hanging on them. We will work with the Shakespeare Gild to purchase 12 ft. posts for the hanging lights and then cut down the dying maples. The trees behind the Field Theater also need replacing. For that, we will get a survey staked and then get cedars as replacements.

### ***Spring House Roof***

We use the Spring House in the Memorial Garden for storage. The roof is decaying and needs to be replaced. Sue will get estimates for a new roof and pricing for various roofing materials – asphalt, metal, fiber material, cedar. The Memorial Garden belongs to the Planning Committee and we will make sure they know about any plans to replace the Spring House roof.

### ***Parking***

A committee has been formed to work on resolving the issue of insufficient parking space at the Gild Hall and the Buzz Ware. Legally we do not have enough parking for either public building. For the Gild Hall we need at least 55 spaces but have only 30. For the Buzz Ware we need 35 spaces but have only 15. We are in violation. The committee consists of Steve Cohen

(Arden Club), Carol Larson (Grounds), Sue Rothrock (Civic), and Bev Fleming (BWVC). Their next meeting is Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

***Next Meeting*** – Monday, May 11, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Hickey  
Secretary, Village of Arden